

Appl. No.: 09/837,686
Amdt. dated March 11, 2004
Reply to Office action of December 22, 2003.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for transferring commands, comprising:
- | an image scanner including a first port and a second port coupled together through a communication bus;
 - | a keyboard connected to the image scanner via the image scanner's first port; and
 - control logic associated with the communication bus, the control logic configured to control the passage of data over the communication bus.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
- | a computer connected to the image scanner via the image scanner's second port, where the communication bus passes commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.
4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control logic is configured to detect the presence of commands from the keyboard.
5. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the control logic routes commands from the keyboard to the computer.
6. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising keyboard enable logic associated with the control logic.

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7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the keyboard enable logic instructs the control logic to route commands from the keyboard to a keyboard/image scanner interface.

8. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a power detector coupled to the communication bus, the power detector configured to detect a power signal from a computer.

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9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, further comprising power supply logic configured to supply power to the keyboard if the power detector fails to detect the power signal from the computer.

10. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the keyboard/image scanner interface is configured to receive keyboard commands from the control logic and forward the keyboard commands to a processor of the image scanner.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to an email address.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to a facsimile address.

13. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a network interface module coupled to the keyboard/image scanner interface, the network interface module configured to connect the image scanner to an external network.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein a document scanned by the image scanner is electronically mailed over the external network.

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15. (Currently amended) A method for communicating commands from a keyboard to an image scanner, the method comprising:

connecting an image scanner to a computer over a communication bus in the image scanner; and

connecting a keyboard to the image scanner via the communication bus, where the communication bus passes commands from the keyboard directly to the computer.

16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising detecting whether a power signal is being transmitted from the computer to the image scanner.

6 17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising supplying power to the keyboard from the image scanner if the power signal from the computer is not detected.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising detecting, within the image scanner, the presence of commands from the keyboard.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, further comprising routing commands from the keyboard to the computer.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 18, further comprising routing commands from the keyboard to the image scanner.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving keyboard commands from a scanner/keyboard/image scanner interface associated with the communication bus; and
forwarding the keyboard commands to a processor of the image scanner.

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22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to an email address.

0 23. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the keyboard commands correspond to a facsimile address.

24. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
coupling a network interface module to the keyboard/image scanner interface; and
connecting the image scanner to an external network.

31 25. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising electronically mailing a document scanned by the image scanner over the external network.

26. (Previously presented) A scanner, comprising:
a scanner input element to scan a document;
control logic coupled to the scanner input element;
a first connection coupled to the control logic to which a user-activated input device can be connected; and
a second connection coupled to the control logic to which a computer can be connected;
wherein the control logic selectively permits input signals from the input device to be provided to the scanner to control the scanner or permits input signals from the input device to be provided to the computer to control the computer.

27. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 26 further comprising an enable control coupled to the control logic to permit a user to select the input device to be operatively connected to the scanner or the computer.

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28. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 26 wherein the input device comprises a keyboard.

29. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 26 wherein the input device can receive power from the scanner or from the computer and the scanner further comprises a power detector coupled to the control logic, wherein the power detector detects whether the computer is providing power to the input device.

6 30. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 29 power detector causes the power to be supplied from the scanner to the input device if the computer is not providing power to the input device.

31. (Previously presented) The scanner of claim 26 further comprising a display coupled to the control logic and a user can cause information to be shown on the display via operation of the input device connected to the scanner.